

## Rapid Watershed Assessment Upper Juniata Watershed

Rapid watershed assessments provide initial estimates of where conservation investments would best address the concerns of landowners, conservation districts, and other community organizations and stakeholders. These assessments help landowners and local leaders set priorities and determine the best actions to achieve their goals.





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### **Preface**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is initiating rapid watershed assessments in order to increase the speed and efficiency generating resource information to guide conservation implementation, as well as the speed and efficiency of putting it into the hands of local decision makers. While these rapid assessments provide less detail and analysis than full-blown studies and plans, they do provide a foundation for watershed studies or area planning. In addition, the assessments provide the benefits of NRCS locally-led planning for resource conservation and conservation program implementation in less time and at a reduced cost than more complex studies.

Rapid watershed assessments will be valuable for Farm Bill program delivery, and provide useful information for county, watershed and regional planners. These assessments provide initial estimates of where conservation investments would best address the concerns of landowners, conservation districts, and other community organizations and stakeholders. These assessments can help landowners and local leaders set priorities and determine the best actions to achieve their goals.

To produce the assessments, quantitative and qualitative data is collected and organized to create a watershed profile using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. The data is analyzed to allow resource concerns and conditions to become apparent, and to generate maps and information to help people make better decisions about conservation needs and programs.

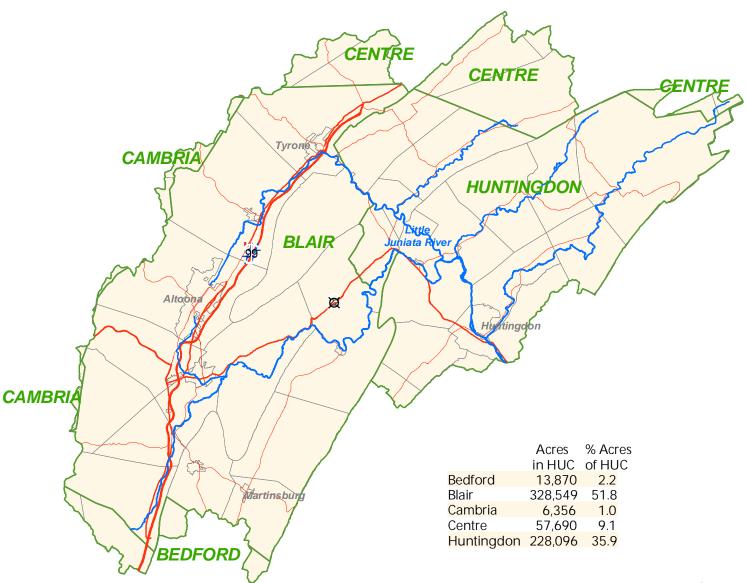
/s/ Craig R. Derickson
Pennsylvania State Conservationist



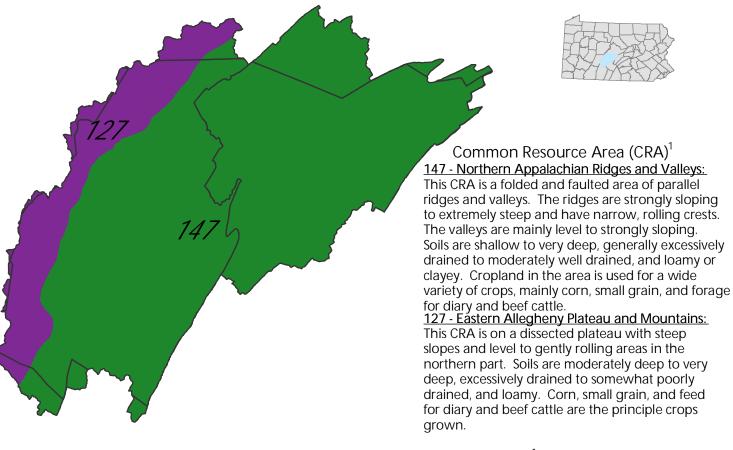


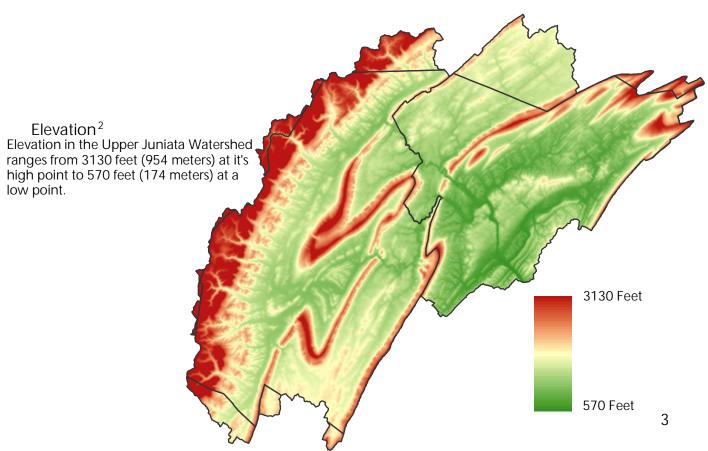
#### Introduction

The Upper Juniata Watershed is located in Central Pennsylvania in portions of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, and Huntingdon Counties. The watershed is almost 634,800 acres in size, of which approximately 130,500 acres is farmland. Five Service Centers of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, five county Conservation Districts and parts of the Southern Alleghenies and Headwaters Resource Conservation and Development Council offices provide conservation assistance in this watershed.



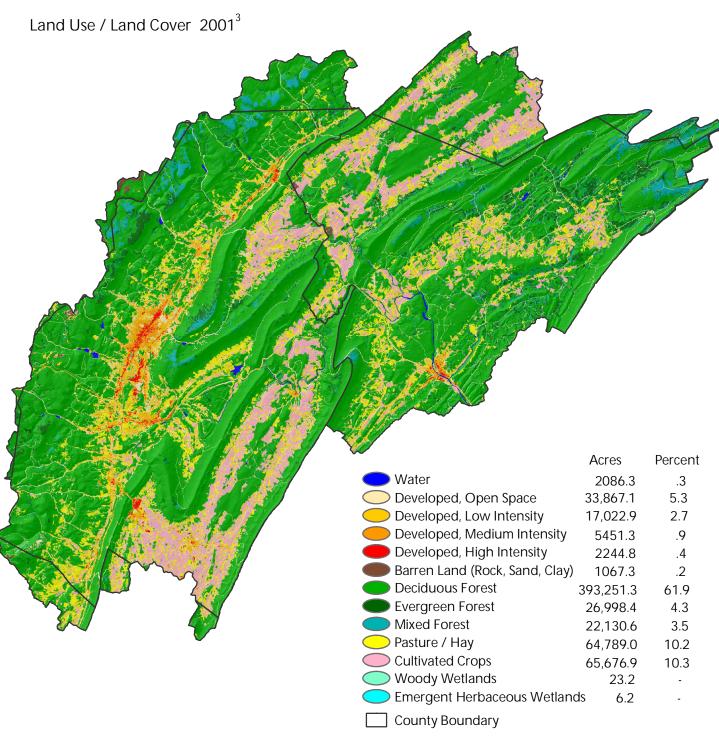
## Upper Juniata Watershed



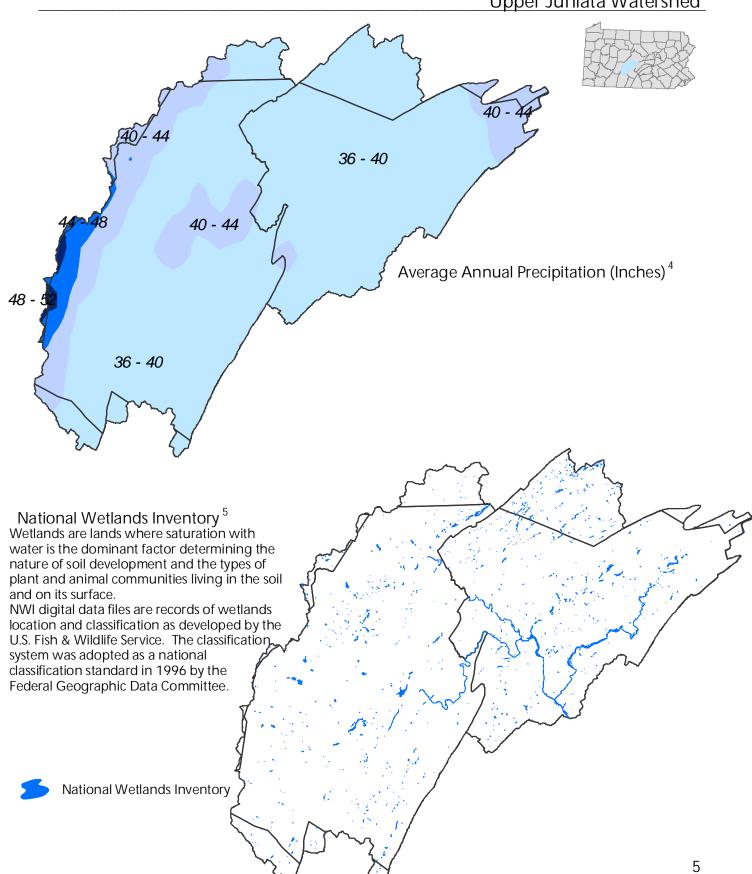








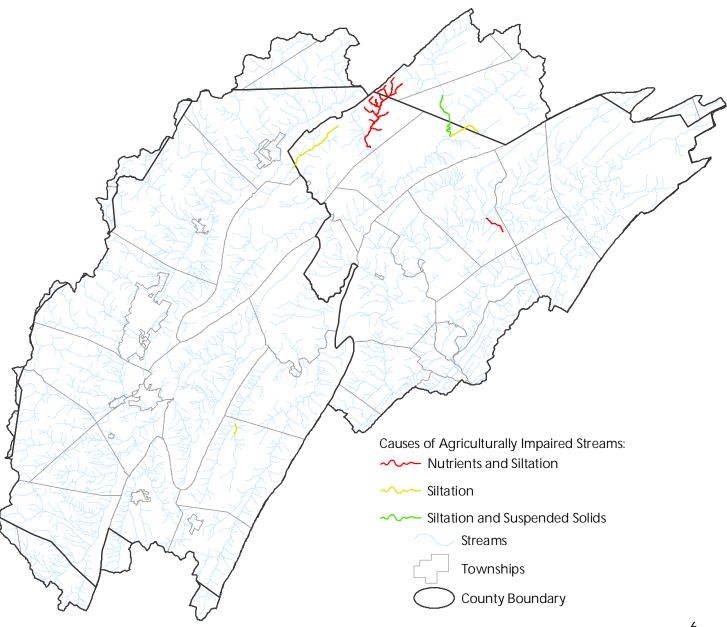






## Impaired Streams <sup>6</sup>

The Streams Integrated List represents stream assessments in an integrated format for the Clean Water Act Section 305(b) reporting and Section 303(d) listing. PA Department of Environmental Protection protects 4 stream water uses: aquatic life, fish consumption, potable water supply, and recreation. The 305(b) layers represents stream segments that have been evaluated for attainment of those uses and determine which streams are non-attaining.

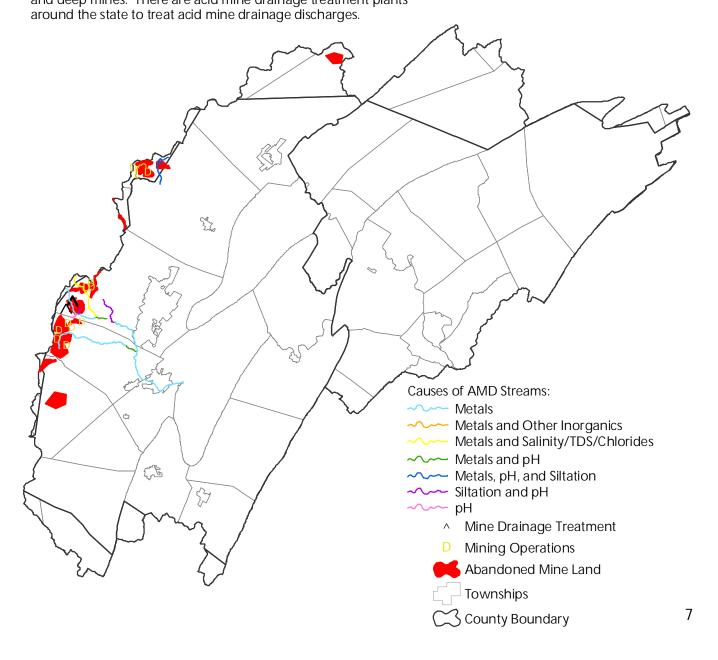




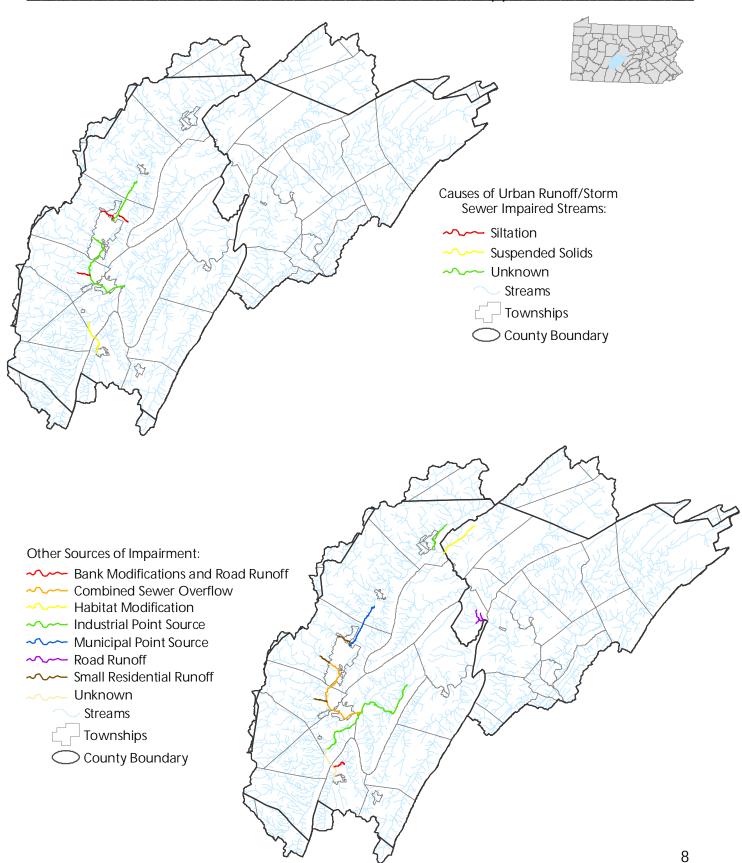
# Abandoned Mine Land and Abandoned Mine Drainage Impaired Streams<sup>7</sup>

Coal mining in Pennsylvania began in the mid-1700's. Pennsylvania is the fourth largest coal producer in the United States, producing over 69.5 million tons in 1995 in 878 mining operations. The environmental legacy of hundreds of years of coal mining in PA includes over 2,400 miles of PA's 84,000 miles of streams effected by acid mine drainage from old coal mining operations. Acid mine drainage in the single largest source of water pollution in the state. Since 1967, Pennsylvania and the federal government have invested close to \$500 million to correct problems from abandoned surface and deep mines. There are acid mine drainage treatment plants



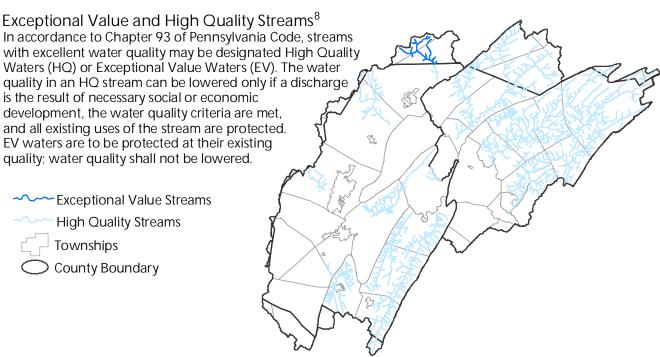


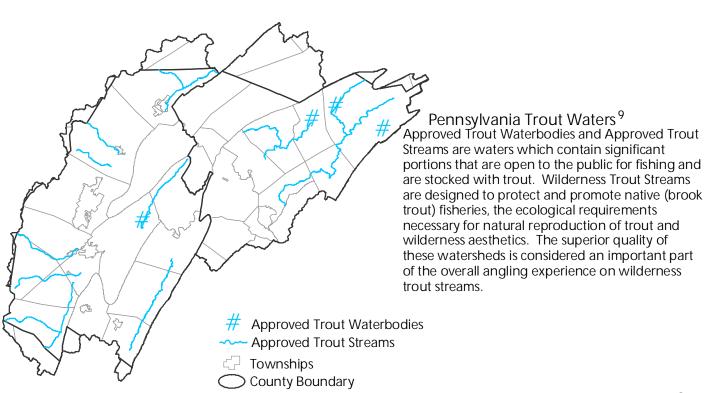






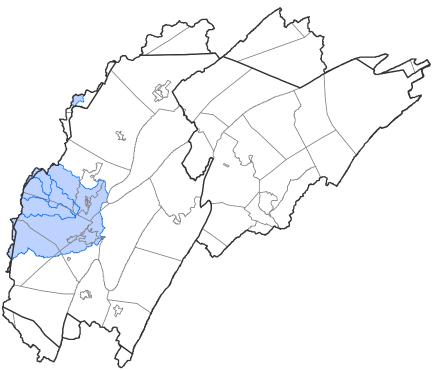






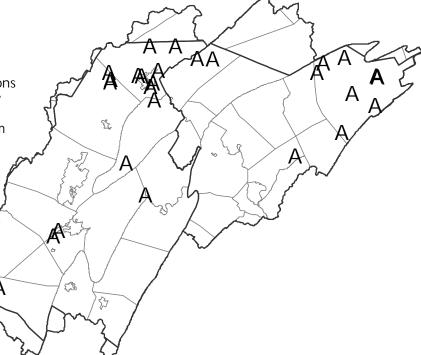






Total Maximum Daily Load<sup>10</sup> A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) sets a ceiling on the pollutant loads that can enter a water body so the water body will meet water quality standards. The Clean Water Act requires states to list all waters that do not meet their water quality standards even after pollution controls required by law are in place. For these waters, the state must calculate how much of a substance can be put in the water without violating the standard and distribute that quantity to all the sources of the pollutant on that water body. A TMDL plan includes waste load allocations for point sources, load allocations for nonpoint sources, and a margin of safety. TMDL plans were completed in the shaded areas due to Acid Mine Drainage.

Water Quality Testing Points <sup>11</sup>
The water quality testing points are locations at which the water quality is monitored by volunteers. A database of these points contains information on water quality from 1986 to the present from 622 testing sites throughout Pennsylvania. Information in records includes at least alkalinity and pH and includes nitrates and phosphates for some sites since 1996.







## Water Resource Points 12

A Water Resource is a DEP primary facility type related to the Water Use Planning Program. The sub-facility types related to Water Resources that are included are:

Discharge: represents the return of water used at a Water Resources primary facility. The subfacility type may be a sewage treatment plant, instream discharge, spray irrigation field, groundwater recharge, on-lot septic or an unidentified facility type.

Ground Water Withdrawal: represents the withdrawal of water used at a Water Resources primary facility. The subfacility type may be a well, spring, quarry, infiltration gallery, deep mine, surface mine or an unidentified facility type. Interconnection: represents the point of interconnection between Water Resources primary facilities. The subfacility type may be for an interconnection between two public water supply agencies or between a public water supply agency and a commercial or industrial water user.

Storage: represents the storage of water used at a Water Resources primary facility. The subfacility type represents raw or treated water storage and may be a quarry, standpipe, open off-stream reservoir, closed off-stream reservoir, instream reservoir, hydroelectric dam, natural lake, pond, silt dam, hydroelectric pumped ( storage or an unidentified facility type. Surface Water Withdrawal: represents the withdrawal of water used at a Water Resources primary facility. bb The subfacility type may be an instream diversion, intake from a dam, natural lake, pond, river well, or an unidentified facility type. b b ၵြရ bbb Discharge b **Ground Water Withdrawal** Interconnection Storage Surface Water Withdrawal **Townships** County Boundary





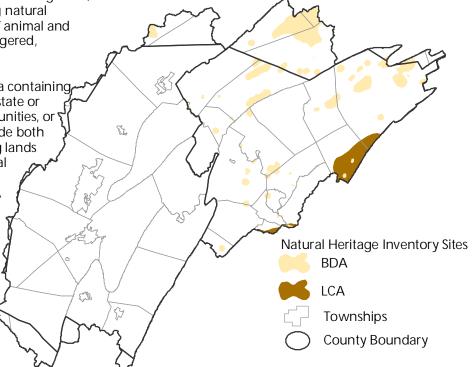
Natural Heritage Inventory Sites <sup>13</sup> These areas are intended to identify outstanding floral, faunal, and geologic features, including natural communities (habitats) and locations of animal and plant species of special concern (endangered, threatened, or rare).

Area Types in this watershed include:

BDA - Biological Diversity Area - An area containing plants or animals of special concern at state or federal levels, exemplary natural communities, or exceptional native diversity. BDAs include both the immediate habitat and surrounding lands important in the support of these special elements.

LCA - Landscape Conservation Area - A large contiguous area that is important because of its size, open space, habitats, and/or inclusion of one or more Biological Diversity Areas.

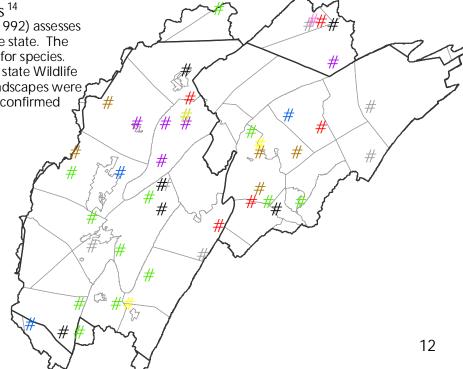
Although an LCA includes a variety of land uses, it typically has not been heavily disturbed and thus retains much of its natural character.



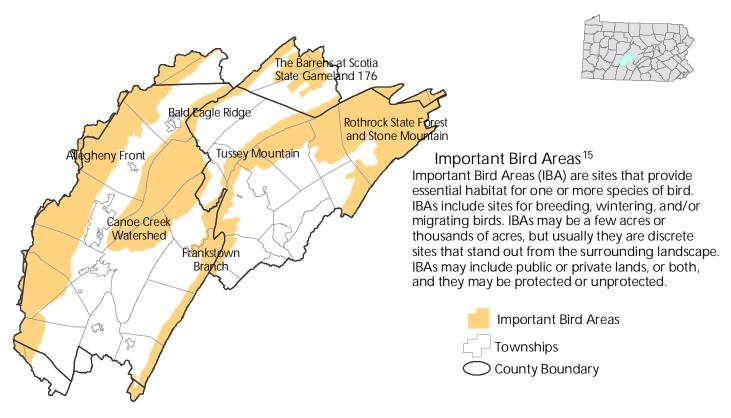
Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas <sup>14</sup>
The 1st Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (1992) assesses the distribution of breeding birds across the state. The areas below are confirmed breeding areas for species. Fourteen birds species from Pennsylvania's state Wildlife Action Plan associated with agricultural landscapes were focused on in this assessment, not all have confirmed breeding area in this watershed.

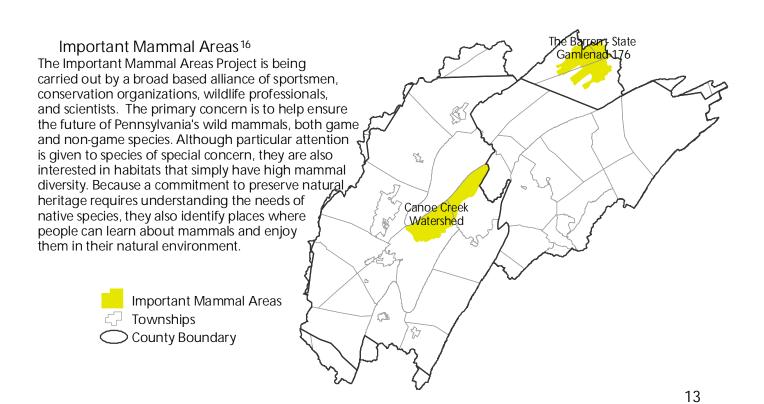
- # American Woodcock
- # Barn Owl
- # Blackbilled Cuckoo
- # Eastern Meadowlark
- # Grasshopper Sparrow
- **#** Northern Bobwhite
- # Redheaded Woodpecker
- # Whip-poor-will
- # Yellow Breasted Chat
- √ | Townships

County Boundary











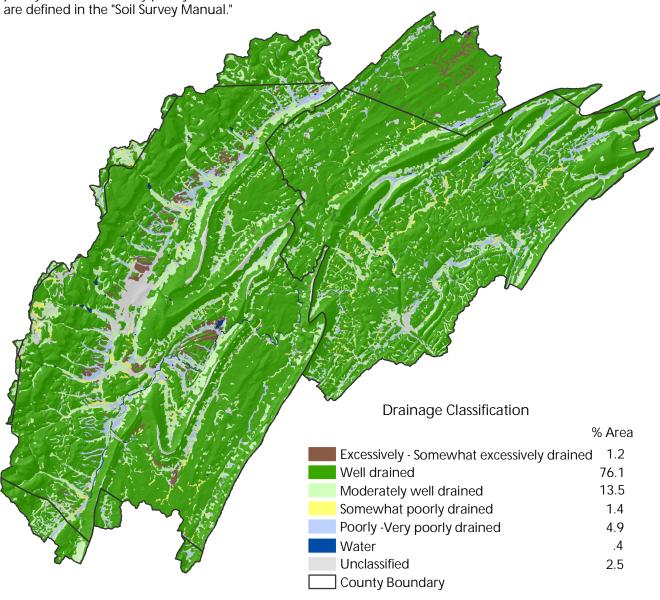
Soils 17

## **Drainage Classification**

Drainage class (natural) refers to the frequency and duration of wet periods under conditions similar to those under which the soil formed. Alterations of the water regime by human activities, either through drainage or irrigation, are not a consideration unless they have significantly changed the morphology of the soil. Seven classes of natural soil drainage are recognized -excessively drained, somewhat excessively drained, well

drained, moderately well drained, somewhat poorly drained, poorly drained, and very poorly drained. These classes



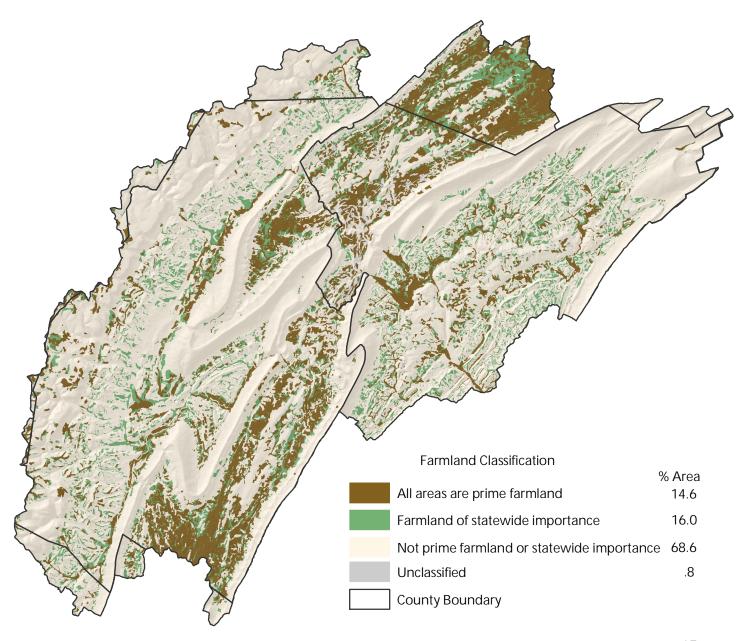






#### Farmland Classification

Farmland classification identifies soil map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. Farmland classification identifies the location and extent of the most suitable land for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the Federal Register, Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.



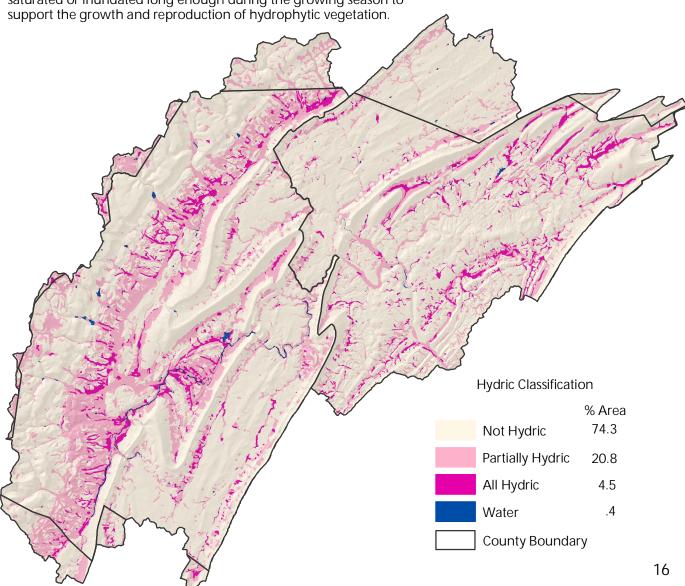




### Hydric Soil Classification

This rating provides an indication of the proportion of the map unit that meets criteria for hydric soils. Map units that are dominantly made up of hydric soils may have small areas, or inclusions, of nonhydric soils in the higher positions on the landform, and map units dominantly made up of nonhydric soils may have inclusions of hydric soils in the lower positions on the landform.

Hydric soils are defined by the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils (NTCHS) as soils that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part (Federal Register, 1994). These soils, under natural conditions, are either saturated or inundated long enough during the growing season to support the growth and reproduction of hydrophytic vegetation.

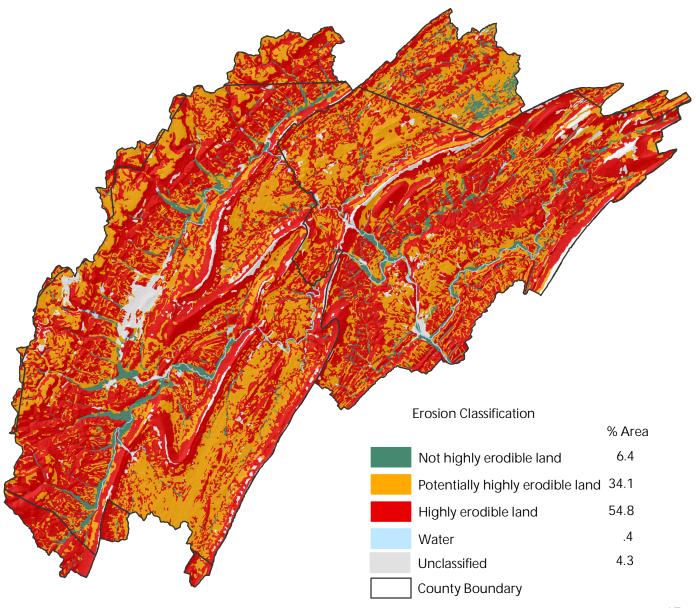






## Highly Erodible Land

A soil map with an erodibilty index (EI) of 8 or greater is considered to be highly erodible land (HEL). The EI for a soil map unit is determined by dividing the potential erodibility for the soil map unit by the soil loss tolerance (T) value established for the soil in the FOTG as of January 1, 1990. Potential erodibility is based on default values for rainfall amount and intensity, percent and length of slope, surface texture and organic matter, permeability, and plant cover. Actual erodibility and EI for any specific map unit depends on the actual values for these properties.

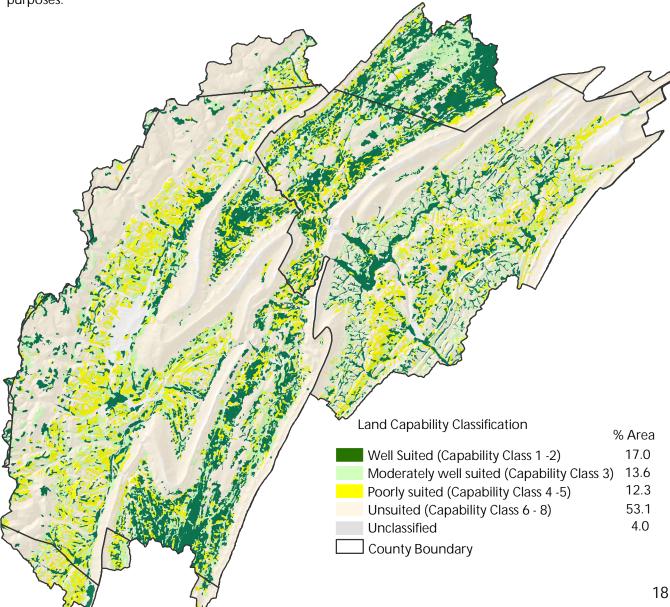




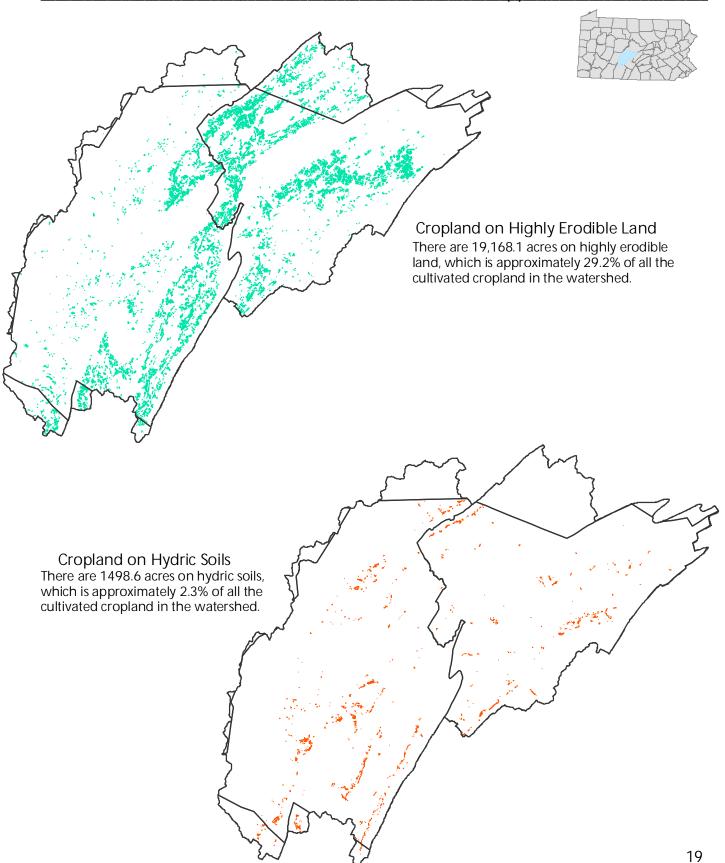


### Land Capability Classification

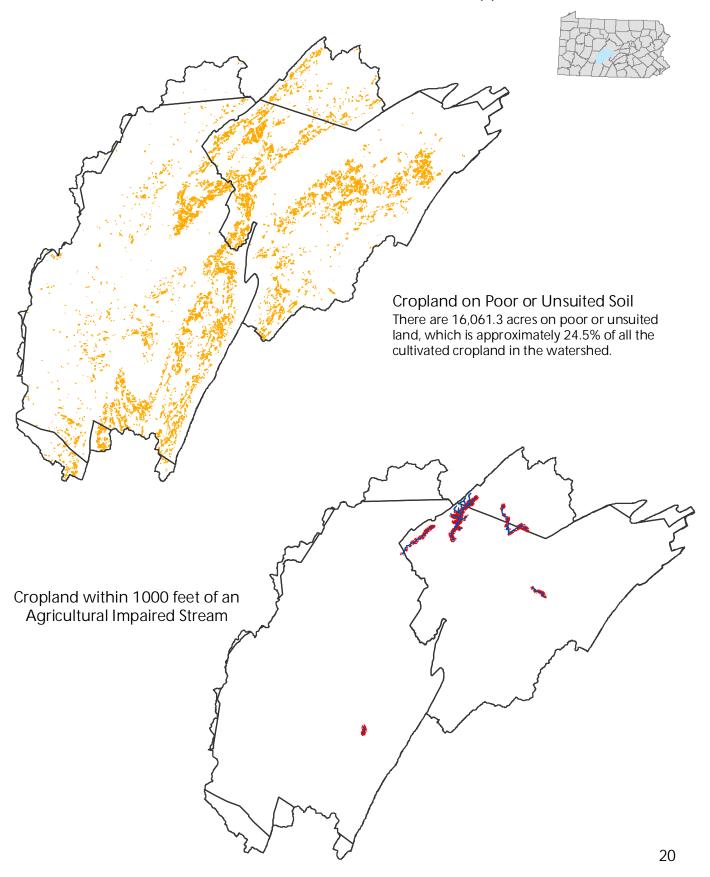
Land capability classification shows, in a general way, the suitability of soils for most kinds of field crops. Crops that require special management are excluded. The soils are grouped according to their limitations for field crops, the risk of damage if they are used for crops, and the way they respond to management. The criteria used in grouping the soils do not include major and generally expensive landforming that would change slope, depth, or other characteristics of the soils, nor do they include possible but unlikely major reclamation projects. Capability classification is not a substitute for interpretations that show suitability and limitations of groups of soils for rangeland, for woodland, and for engineering purposes.















#### **Resource Concerns**

Major resource concerns in the area include:

- erosion
- maintenance of organic matter
- soil productivity
- sedimentation
- land slippage
- gullying
- subsidence caused by mining
- surface compaction

#### **Conservation Practices**

Common conservation practices for cropland:

- contour farming
- crop rotations
- cover crops
- nutrient management
- conservation tillage
- diversions
- grassed waterways
- buffers
- hayland planting

#### Common conservation practices for pastureland:

- prescribed grazing
- watering systems
- fencing
- pasture planting
- nutrient management





## PRS Performance Measures 18

	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	Total
Total Conservation Systems Planned (acres)	3008	7085	8139	5426	6764	NA	6934	6372	43,728
Total Conservation Systems Applied (acres)	240	3575	2655	4747	3048	NA	5463	4538	24,266
	Key Co	onserva	tion Tre	atment	S				
Waste Storage Facility (number)	1	5	3	11	0	1	1	2	24
Riparian Forest Buffer (acres)	1	209	7	21	16	19	99	75	447
Erosion Control Total Soils Saved (tons/year)	83	2385	1768	1308	3217	NA	NA	NA	8,761
Nutrient Management (acres)	0	2366	4090	2821	375	296	1259	425	11,632
Pest Management (acres)	0	0	0	655	493	0	796	306	2,250
Prescribed Grazing (acres)	560	553	291	668	666	86	376	216	3,416
Tree and Shrub Establishment (acres)	0	2	2	1	2	15	0	0	22
Residue Management (acres)	0	1161	1387	3284	3244	442	3555	0	13,073
Wildlife Habitat (acres)	0	9	1	814	28	331	1394	930	3,507
Wetlands Created, Restored, or Established	0	2	6	131	0	29	37	32	237
	Acres in	Conse	rvation	Prograr	ns				
Conservation Technical Assistance									
Planned	1180	5810	6144	5005	6266	NA	5057	4380	33,842
Applied	156	3067	2447	4300	2749	NA	3547	2806	19,072
Conservation Reserve Program									
Planned	3	311	185	0	45	NA	1321	1237	3,102
Applied	0	39	0	3	24	NA	1485	1042	2,593
Environmental Quality Incentive Program									
Planned	0	0	0	0	0	NA	880	502	1,382
Applied	0	0	0	0	0	NA	384	600	984
Farmland Protection Policy/Farm and Ranch	Lands Pro	otection F	rogram				-		
Planned	0	138	0	0	0	NA	0	0	138
Applied	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0	0	0
Forestry Incentive Program									
Planned	0	138	0	0	0	NA	0	0	138
Applied	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0	0	0
Grasslands Reserve Program									
Planned				0	0		0	0	0
Applied				0	0	NA	0	0	0
Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative									
Planned	31	1091	95						1,217
Applied	0	380	266						646
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program									
Planned	37	0		92		NA	4		723
Applied	0	0	0	0	37	NA	4	0	41
Wetlands Reserve Program					1				
Planned	0						0		
Applied	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0	0	0

NA - Reporting was unavailabel by Hydrologic Unit Code





## Social and Census Data 19

ocidi di la occisas Data					_	
	Bedford	Blair	Cambria	Centre	Huntingdon	Total
Farms (number)	23	490	9	98	339	959
Land in farms (acres)	4,049	83,288	1,232	13,384	57,219	159,172
Total cropland (acres)	2,383	58,754	817	8,458	31,257	101,669
Principal operator by primary occupation -						
Farming (number)	14	318	301	47	202	882
Farr	ns by Siz	ze				
1 to 9 acres	1	55	1	7	23	87
10 to 49 acres	4	96	2	30	73	205
50 to 179 acres	11	211	4	41	146	413
180 to 499 acres	6	94	1	17	76	194
500 to 999 acres	1	27	0	3	16	47
1,000 acres or more	0	6	0	1	5	12
Livestoc	k and Po	oultry				
Cattle and calves inventory (farms)	14	300	5	48	183	550
Cattle and calves inventory - Beef cows (farms)	8	124	4	26	109	271
Cattle and calves inventory - Milk cows (farms)	5	149	1	18	48	221
Hogs and pigs inventory (farms)	1	37	1	7	18	64
Sheep and lambs inventory (farms)	2	27	0	5	14	48
Layers 20 weeks old and older inventory (farms)	2	51	1	11	30	95
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold (farms)	0	10	0	2	0	12
	Harvest	ted	,			
Corn for grain (acres)	226	3820	128	1331	2830	8335
Corn for silage or greenchop (acres)	353	17,409	47	755	5883	24,447
Wheat for grain, all (acres)	16	412	33	300	593	1354
Oats for grain (acres)	64	783	86	190	604	1727
Barley for grain (acres)	24	615	6	50	180	875
Soybeans for beans (acres)	51	2367	7	716	1121	4262
Forage - land used for all hay and all haylage,						
grass silage, and greenchop (acres)	1,091	26,347	312	3059	13,394	44,203
Vegetables harvested for sale (acres)	4	670	3	248	165	1090
Land in orchards (acres)	22	270	2	43	29	366
Total cropland harvested (acres)	1,813	51,568	658	6,562	24,772	85,373
Farm Oper	ator by I	Ethnicit	V			
White	34	750	12	145	496	1437
Black or African American	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	6	0	0	3	9
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0
Women	9	172	3	41	135	360





## Partnership Groups:

A cooperative project involving NRCS and conservation partners, including:

- State Conservation Commission
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- Pennsylvania Game Commission
- Pennsylvania Grazing/Forage Lands Conservation Coalition
- Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission





### Footnotes/Bibliography

All data is provided "as is". There is no warranties, express or implied, including the warranty of fitness for a particular purpose, accompanying this document. Use for planning purpose only.

#### 1. Common Resource Area

Common Resource Area (CRA) delineation is defined as a geographical area where resource concerns, problems, or treatment needs are similar. More information can be found online at <a href="http://soils.usda.gov/survey/geography/cra.html">http://soils.usda.gov/survey/geography/cra.html</a>

#### 2. National Elevation Dataset (NED)

The NED is a seamless mosaic of the best-available elevation data. The primary source data were the USGS 7.5-minute (30-meter or 10-meter resolution) DEM's. A hillshade grid was also created using the DEM and used to creare a 3-D effect. More inforantion on NED can be found online at http://ned.usgs.gov/

#### 3. Land Use / Land Cover 2001

Land Use / Land Cover map was created using the National Land Cover Dataset. The National Land Cover Dataset was compiled from Landsat satellite TM imagery with a spatial resolution of 30 meters and supplemented by various ancillary data (where available). More inforamtion can be found online at <a href="http://landcover.usgs.gov/">http://landcover.usgs.gov/</a>

#### 4. Average Annual Precipitation

The average annual precipitation data for this map layer were produced through a partnership between NRCS and the Spatial Climate Analysis Service at Oregon State University (OSU). The average annual precipitation is from 1961 through 1990. More information can be found online at <a href="http://www.ncgc.nrcs.usda.gov/products/datasets/climate/index.html">http://www.ncgc.nrcs.usda.gov/products/datasets/climate/index.html</a>

#### 5. National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

The NWI maps do not show all wetlands since the maps are derived from aerial photointerpretation with varying limitations due to scale, photo quality, inventory techniques, and other factors. More information can be found online at <a href="http://www.fws.gov/nwi/">http://www.fws.gov/nwi/</a>

#### 6. Impaired Streams

Impaired Streams were derived from Pennsylavania Department of Protection Office of Water Management, 2006 list on Non-Attaining Streams. More information can be found on DEP website at <a href="http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/dep/site/default.asp">http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/dep/site/default.asp</a>

#### 7. Abandoned Mine Land

Abandoned Mine Land data was received from the Office of Surface Mining. The data set shows the approximate location of Abandoned Mine Land Problem Areas containing public health, safety, and public welfare problems created by past coal mining. More information can be found online at <a href="http://www.osmre.gov/osmaml.htm">http://www.osmre.gov/osmaml.htm</a>

#### 8. Exceptional Value and High Quality Streams

Exceptional Value and High Quality Streams were taken from the Chapter 93 data layer received from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. For more information on what qualifies a stream as exceptional value or high quality or any information on Chapter 93 streams go to <a href="http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/025/chapter93/chap93toc.html">http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/025/chapter93/chap93toc.html</a>





## Footnotes/Bibliography

#### 9. Pennsylvania Trout Waters

Pennsylvania Trout Water data is compiled by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. This layer was created based on the 1:24000 National Hydropahy Dataset (NHD) water bodies layer. More information can be found online at

http://www.fish.state.pa.us/fishpub/summary/troutwaters.html

#### 10. Total Maximun Daily Load (TMDL)

TMDL is the sum of the individual waste load allocations and load allocations which would not produce a violation of water quality standards. The data used is from 2003, the PA Department of Environmental Protection is currently working on updating the GIS data available. More information can be found on TMDL locations in PA at http://www.dep.state.pa.us/watermanagement\_apps/tmdl/, and/or nationally at http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/

#### 11. Water Quality Testing Points

Water Quality Testing Points monitor water quality with emphasis on stream acidity in Pennsylvania with an assoiciated database. The database contains more than 33,466 records on water quality from 1986 to the present from 622 testing sites throughout Pennsylvania. Information in the records includes alkalinity and Ph and includes nitrates and phosphates for some sites since 1996. The information is maintained by the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring. More information can be found online at http://alpha.dickinson.edu/storg/allarm/allarm%20projects/database.htm

#### 12. Water Resource Points

A Water Resource is a DEP primary facility type related to the Water Use Planning Program. More information can be found <a href="http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/dep/site/default.asp">http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/dep/site/default.asp</a>

#### 13. Natural Heritage Inventory Sites

The Natural Areas polygons were developed by the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) County Natural Heritage Inventory (CNHI) Program. Natural Areas were identified using map and air photo interpretation, aerial rconnaissance, and field surveys. More information and county reports can be found online at <a href="http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/">http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/</a>

#### 14. Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas

Data was taken for the 1st Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas (1992). For this watershed assessment, fourteen bird species were chosen to be focused on. More information about all bird species can be obtained at http://www.carnegiemnh.org/atlas/home.htm

#### 15. Important Bird Areas

The Important Bird Areas Program (IBA) is a global effort to identify and conserve areas that are vital to birds and other biodiversity. For more information nationally and/or on the state level go to <a href="http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/">http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/</a>

#### 16. Important Mammal Areas

Important Mammal Areas Project, IMAP, the first program of it's kind, was created by the Mammal Technical Committee of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PaBS). For more inforamtion go online to <a href="http://www.pawildlife.org/imap.htm">http://www.pawildlife.org/imap.htm</a>







### Footnotes/Bibliography

#### 17. Soils

Soil Survey spatial and tabular data were used for the following survey areas:

Bedford County (PA009)

Blair County (PA013)

Cambria County (PA021)

Centre County (PA027)

Huntingdon County (PA061)

Spatial and tabular data an be downloaded at http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/

#### 18. Performance Results System (PRS)

PRS data was extracted from PRS by year, conservation system, conservation practice, and proagrams by hydrologic unit code. More information can be found online at the PRS homepage <a href="http://ias.sc.egov.usda.gov/prshome/">http://ias.sc.egov.usda.gov/prshome/</a>

#### 19. Social and Census Data

Ag census data and ethnicity data were downloaded from the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The data was adjusted by percent of Hydrologic unit in the county. More inforamtion can be found online at <a href="http://www.nass.usda.gov/Census\_of\_Agriculture/index.asp">http://www.nass.usda.gov/Census\_of\_Agriculture/index.asp</a>